

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT  
CHITTENDEN UNIT

CIVIL DIVISION  
DOCKET NO.: 1047-11-19 Cnev

WENDY L. KALANGES,

USDC - DVT  
5:21-cv-7

Plaintiff,

VERMONT SUPERIOR  
COURT

v.

GOPICHAND VALLABHANENI  
and COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS  
OF BURLINGTON,

FEB 18 2020

Defendants.

CHITTENDEN UNIT

**COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

Plaintiff, Wendy Kalanges, by and through counsel, Affolter Gannon, alleges in this Complaint as follows:

**JURISDICTION AND PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff is a resident of Chittenden County, Vermont.
2. Defendant, Community Health Centers of Burlington (hereinafter "CHC"), was at all material times a Vermont health practice which provided dental care with its principal place of business in Burlington, Vermont.
3. Defendant, Gopichand Vallabhaneni, DDS, was at all material times a dentist licensed to practice dentistry in the State of Vermont who treated patients at Defendant CHC.

**FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

4. This is a malpractice action for complications arising from a dental procedure performed by Dr. Vallabhaneni on Wendy Kalanges.
5. Dr. Vallabhaneni was required by the standard of care to utilize a dental dam to avoid complications, but failed to do so.

6. This case has been reviewed by a qualified expert or experts who find clear deviations from the standard of care which were the cause of complications suffered by Ms. Kalanges.

#### **CAUSE OF ACTION**

7. Upon information and belief, at all times material to this complaint, Dr. Vallabhaneni was employed by Defendant CHC.
8. At all times material to this complaint, Defendant Vallabhaneni acted as the agent of Defendant CHC in undertaking to provide the treatment to Plaintiff.
9. At all times material to this complaint, the care and treatment provided by Defendant Vallabhaneni was authorized and ratified by Defendant CHC.
10. At all times material to this complaint, Plaintiff was under the care of the Defendants. During such time, each Defendant owed Ms. Kalanges the duty of care requiring Defendants to act in accordance with accepted standards of dental care in rendering treatment to Ms. Kalanges.
11. At all times material to this complaint, Defendants' care and treatment of Plaintiff fell below the standard of care exercised by reasonably skillful, careful and prudent health care professionals engaged in a similar practice under the same or similar circumstances.
12. During the care and treatment of Ms. Kalanges, Defendants deviated from the standard of care exercised by reasonably skillful, careful and prudent professionals engaged in a similar practice under the same or similar circumstances.
13. During the care and treatment of Ms. Kalanges up to November 26, 2016, Defendants each breached their duties of care in manners including, but not limited to, the following acts of omission or commission:
  - 1) Failing to advise Plaintiff prior to her procedure of the need for a dental

dam;

- 2) Failing to utilize a dental dam;
- 3) Failing to recognize and appropriately treat complications, failing to inform Plaintiff of the existence of said complications and that they were caused by Defendants' failure to use a dental dam.

14. As a proximate result of the aforementioned acts of omission or commission by each Defendant, Plaintiff incurred and continues to incur significant health care bills and economic loss. Ms. Kalanges also experienced and continues to experience unnecessary pain, suffering, loss of normal function and psychological stress.

**DEMAND FOR RELIEF**

16. Plaintiff demands judgment and verdict against each Defendant, jointly and severally, in an amount which will compensate her for pain and suffering and permanent injury along with health care bills, economic loss together with interest and costs and such other additional relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff elects trial by jury on all issues.

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT (12 V.S.A § 1042)**

Pursuant to 12 V.S.A. § 1042, Plaintiffs' counsel hereby certifies I have consulted with a health care provider qualified pursuant to the requirements of Rule 702 of the Vermont Rules of Evidence and any other applicable standard, and that, based on the information reasonably available at the time the opinion was rendered, the health care provider has:

- (1) Described the applicable standard of care;

(2) Indicated that based on reasonably available evidence, there is a reasonable likelihood that the Plaintiff will be able to show that each Defendant failed to meet that standard of care; and

(3) Indicated that there is a reasonable likelihood that the Plaintiff will be able to show that the Defendant's failure to meet the standard of care caused the Plaintiff's injuries.

WHEREFORE Plaintiff requests judgment against Defendants in her favor plus costs and interest and any other relief deemed just.

DATED at Essex Junction, Vermont this 18 day of February, 2020.

AFFOLTER GANNON

By:

  
Michael J. Gannon, Esq.  
Attorney for Plaintiffs  
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Hand-Delivered  
February 18, 2020

VERMONT SUPERIOR  
COURT

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FEB 18 2020

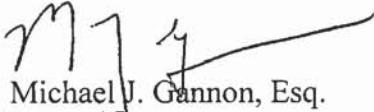
CHITTENDEN UNIT

**Re: Wendy L. Kalanges v Gopichand Vallabhaneni and Community Health**  
**Centers of Burlington**  
**Docket Number: 1047-11-19 Cnev**

Dear Jill:

Please find enclosed for filing with the Court a complaint. A filing fee of \$295.00 was submitted with our initial filing on November 18, 2019, Check #13790.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact with any questions.

Cordially yours,  
AFFOLTER GANNON  
  
Michael J. Gannon, Esq.  
Encs.

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT  
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Docket No. 1047-11-19 Cncv

Wendy L. Kalanges,  
Plaintiff

v.

Gopiachand Vallabhaneni,  
Community Health Centers of Burlington,  
Defendants

The clerk hereby acknowledges the filing of the Petition seeking an automatic extension of the statute of limitations for this matter pursuant to 12 V.S.A. § 1042(d), along with the required filing fee. A docket number has been assigned. Any further action of the court will await the filing of a complaint. There is no further fee required on the filing of a complaint.

Electronically signed on November 20, 2019 at 12:49 PM pursuant to V.R.E.F. 7(d).

  
Jill C. Mongeon  
Court Operations Manager